

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 have been indicated as having allowable subject matter. Claims 2-4 and 9-11 have been amended. Claims 1, 5-8, and 12 have been cancelled. New claims 13-16 have been added to the application. Reconsideration and re-examination of the application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein.

1. Claims 9 and 10 have been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Because claims 9 and 10 have been re-written in independent form to include the claim limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims, claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

2. The preamble of claims 2-4 and 9-11 has been amended to better define that which applicant regards as the invention. Approval of these amendments by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

3. The Examiner has objected to claims 5-8 and 12, because of an informality. Claims 5-8 and 12 have been cancelled.

4. The Examiner has objected to the drawings, because the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in claim 5. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Removal of the objection the drawings, therefore, is respectfully requested.

5. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-7, and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Puhak (U.S. Patent No. 4,165,143).

Claim 1, 5-7, and 12 have been cancelled.

Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to correct typographical errors and to depend from claim 9, which has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Because claim 9 has been re-written in independent form to include the claim limitations of its base claim and its intervening claims, and claims 4 and 11 depend from claim 9, Puhak does not teach all the claim limitations of claims 4 and 11. Removal of the rejection of claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

6. The Examiner has rejected claims 2-3, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puhak (U.S. Patent No. 4,165,143) in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,944,892).

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct typographical errors and to depend from claim 9, which has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Because claim 9 has been re-written in independent form to include the claim limitations of its base claim and its intervening claims, and claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 9, Puhak does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of claims 2 and 3. Removal of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been cancelled.

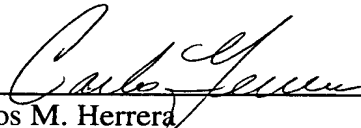
7. New claims 13-16 have been added to the application. Claims 13-16 depend from independent claim 10, which has been amended to contain the claim limitations of claim 1.

Claims 13-16 mirror dependent claims 2-4, and 11, which previously depended from claim 1. Because claims 13-16 depend from independent claim 10, which has been indicated as being in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth herein, claims 13-16 are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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